

LIBERTY'S PLACE OF REST

LAYING THE CORNERSTONE OF THE BARTHOLDI PEDESTAL.

EXERCISES HELD IN A POURING RAIN AND COMPARATIVELY FEW PRESENT—THE ORATION OF MR. BUTLER.

While the rain was pouring down in torrents yesterday afternoon the cornerstone of the pedestal of the statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" was laid, and services commemorative of the event were conducted on Bedloe's Island. Hundreds who had received invitations were kept away by the storm, and there were only about 1,500 persons altogether on the island, of whom 600 or 700, including a score of ladies, held tickets entitling them to ascend to the top of the concrete foundation. Nearly one-half of the gathering was made up of Frenchmen.

The steamer Bay Ridge, decorated with the tricolors of France and the Stars and Stripes, was tendered to take the guests, but its capacity received no test. Gen. Hancock and his staff came over in a launch from Governor's Island, and a cutter brought over the staff of Commodore Fillebrowne from the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Commodore Fillebrowne himself was unable to accompany his staff. Of the American Committee of the Statue of Liberty there were present Frederick A. Potts, V. Mumford Moore, J. W. Pinchot, Cortlandt Parker, Richard Butler, the Secretary, and H. F. Spaulding, the Treasurer. Among the others on the foundation were Gen. Charles P. Stone, the chief engineer; Richard M. Hunt, the architect, and D. H. King, Jr., the builder of the pedestal; ex-Mayor Gunther, S. B. Chittenden, Cyrus W. Field, Thomas McElrath, A. M. Kirby, James M. Ware, Eugene Kelly, Congressman John Keane, ex-Congressman Burrows, the Rev. Henry M. Field, Benjamin H. Field, Senator Joseph T. Moore, of Maryland; the Mayors of New-Haven, New-Bedford, and Newark; Albert Lefavre, Minister Plenipotentiary in charge of the French Consulate in New-York; M. Truy, Acting Consul; the Presidents of the different French societies, the Grenadiers Rochambeau and the Guards Lafayette in uniform. Mayor Edson, of New-York, and Mayor Low, of Brooklyn, sent letters of regret, as did also M. de Roustan, the French Minister, who sails for France to-day.

The place for the cornerstone was on the northeast corner of the foundation. There was a square hole in the concrete for the copper box containing the articles to be deposited. The cornerstone itself was an immense block of Leetes Island granite, 6 feet 10 inches long, 3 feet 8 inches wide, and 2 feet 6 inches high, weighing six tons. Tackle managed by steam ran down from the stout beams of the huge derrick, which was hidden in the American and French colors. The cornerstone fitted in and completed the first course of masonry in the pedestal. The David's Island Government Band played the "Marseillaise" and "Hail Columbia" at 2 o'clock, which was the signal for the beginning of the exercises. Gen. Stone, in a swallowtail coat and black silk hat, and wearing his French and Egyptian decorations, opened the box to receive the cards of the people present, which were showered in. Copies of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, a number of medals, a list of the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State, the daily papers, and other articles deemed appropriate had already been placed in it.

On one coin in the box were inscribed Gen. Dix's words: "If any man attempts to haul down the American flag shoot him on the spot." The lid was soldered fast and the box placed in its place and the stone lowered over it. This operation was not intrusted to the laborers, but was done by Mr. King and his Superintendents, G. R. A. Ricketts, Col. J. M. Morgan, William Kennedy, and the Superintending Foreman, Michael Byrne, under direction of Gen. Stone. The services were conducted by Grand Master William A. Brodle and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New-York. Deputy Grand Master Frank R. Lawrence, after a salute of 21 guns from the battery of old Fort Wood, delivered a Masonic address.

M. Lefavre was then introduced by Gen. Stone. He wore a suit trimmed with gold lace, and upon his breast was the insignia of an officer of the Legion of Honor. Three cheers were given for him. Immediately three cheers were proposed for Gen. Hancock, who was standing back in the crowd, and they were given with a will. Both gentlemen took off their hats and bowed. M. Lefavre, who spoke in English, said that the statue of Liberty would be a fitting embodiment of the leading virtue of the American people—their faith in liberty. This was a better protection than guns and fortresses.

William Allen Butler delivered the oration of the day, and among other things he said:

"The friendship of France for the American colonies in their struggle for independence and the gratitude which her timely intervention and succor have evoked are the source and ground of this truly international effort to give a suitable and permanent expression to both these sentiments. Below the crust and craft of diplomacy and statesmanship there exists a genuine sympathy on the part of every people toward every other people suffering under burdens too grievous to be borne. Such was the friendship of the people of France to the American colonists. No allusion, however brief or casual, to this part of our history as a nation, can fail to bring before us the one bright, central figure, in whom, as always in every great movement of a people or an age, the spirit which inspires it seems embodied and incarnate. To speak of the friendship of France is to utter, in another form, the name of Lafayette. France, after many years of change and struggle, is a free republic. The ancient tie between her people and our people is thus made closer, and the renewed feeling of fraternity based on this near approach to unity in the methods of free government between France and our own country enters largely into the work whose completion we are now aiding.

"The movement was commenced nine years ago on the eve of our great Centennial celebration by prominent citizens of France, whose ancestors had taken part in our Revolutionary war, or who had themselves been identified with the progress of free government, to mark the close of the first century of the American Republic by a grand monumental work of art to be erected in the midst of this imperial harbor. The genius of Bartholdi has created and his skill has wrought to completion a colossal statue worthy in design and execution of the purpose it is to serve."

Assistant Bishop Henry C. Potter then delivered the benediction. The rain did not slacken once during the exercises, and toward the last it grew heavier. A soldier held an umbrella over Gen. Hancock. A workman, who mixed the cement, got under the umbrella and the General generously moved over to give him half. The water dripped down. The workman stood it for a while and then sought a more protected place.

The foundation for the pedestal is 91 feet square at the base, 67 square at the top, and rises 52 feet and 10 inches above the surface of the ground. The material weighs 23,500 tons. The stone work will be 114 feet high, and the statue will rise 145 feet above that. A little over \$150,000 has been raised, of which \$145,000 was secured in New-York. About \$100,000 more is needed. There is money enough to lay nine courses, or 20 feet, of stone, which will be done by Aug. 30. Gen. Stone said the builder had been notified to stop then if funds were not forthcoming. The committee hoped it would not be necessary to cease operations. If the work is not interrupted it will be entirely completed and ready for the statue Nov. 1.